

PENIEL METHODIST

CHURCH

New Melle, MO

1869-1960



HISTORICAL DOCUMENT

THE PENIEL METHODIST CHURCH

NEW MELLE, MISSOURI

1869--1960

BACKGROUND:

THE GERMAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH -- 1871  
THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH -- 1928  
THE METHODIST CHURCH -- 1939

SUPERVISION:

THE ST. LOUIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
THE JEFFERSON CITY DISTRICT  
THE WENTZVILLE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

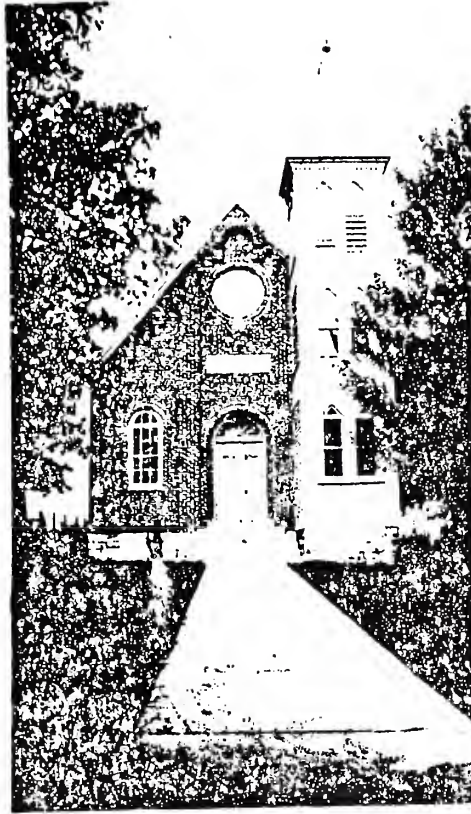
TRUSTEES:

Edward Karrenbrock (Deceased)  
Morris Muschany, Chairman  
John I. Denny, Secretary  
William Oney

PREACHER IN CHARGE and HISTORIAN, Theodore H. Wolff  
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT, M.G. Joyce  
BISHOP, Eugene M. Frank

150 copies printed by Mrs. Theodore H. Wolff





THE METHODIST CHURCH BUILDING, NEW MELLE, MISSOURI



406 • 59

THE METHODIST PARSONAGE  
Sold in 1914



SEP • 59

THE OLD DAY SCHOOL BUILDING  
Sold in 1914





# A HISTORY OF THE METHODIST CHURCH at NEW MELLE, MISSOURI:

The Minister's Study,  
The Methodist Church,  
Wentzville, Missouri,  
Theodore H. Wolff, Preacher in Charge.

ASH WEDNESDAY--  
March 2, 1960.

On April 17, 1959, I wrote the following words in The Yearbook of The Wentzville Methodist Church concerning The Methodist Church at New Melle:

"More than a decade ago services were discontinued at The New Melle Methodist Church. At the end, we understand, only a faithful few (sometimes five and six in number) attended the preaching services. Thereafter until 1957 no effort was made to locate the members of the church and to prepare a list of persons whose memberships would still be on the New Melle roll. However, during the past two years we have visited local families and engaged in correspondence with others; we now report that, to the best of our knowledge, there are 19 names on the New Melle roll. They are distributed in this way--6 live in New Melle, 9 live on rural routes in St. Charles and adjoining counties, 1 lives in Wentzville, 1 lives in another state, and 2 live in other Missouri towns.

"According to The Jubilee Book of THE ST. LOUIS GERMAN CONFERENCE, The Congregation (Die Gemeinde) in 1869 felt the need of a pastor and sent their request to 'die Hochschule' (Central Wesleyan College) in Warrenton. Br. W. Simon was sent and he worked from 1870 to 1872. That was the beginning of a noble work which we are now bringing to an end; a work which has become a part of our fellowship at Wentzville. For Mr. Ed. S. Karrenbrock, for many, many years a faithful member at New Melle is now faithful in attendance and support of our work at Wentzville. All the others too sustain us by their prayers and goodwill and thoughts.

"The Methodist work at New Melle came to an end because of social and economic changes. Children from the older families moved a way and found their service to Christ in other communities and states. The older people finally were not able to attend and gradually the work began to fall into difficulty, and finally had to be stopped when it was no longer feasible to send a minister to serve the church.

"Since the church property at New Melle has been largely abandoned by the membership and no abandonment action has been taken by The Annual Conference the care of the property is under our supervision. Our Quarterly Conference has approved 3 trustees for the property, namely--Ed. S. Karrenbrock, Morris Muschany, and William M. Oney. Insurance is carried on the building."

Since writing those words, time has passed and 3 members have died--





namely, Ed. S. Karrenbrock, Tate Karrenbrock, and Mrs. Eliza Ritter.

The names of the remaining 16 were transferred, according to the law and usage of The Methodist Church, The Discipline, 1956 Edition, page 44, and paragraph 126, to the membership roll of The Wentzville Methodist Church at Wentzville, Missouri.

At a Quarterly Conference session held at O'Fallon, Missouri, the following resolution was approved:

#### QUARTERLY CONFERENCE RESOLUTION ON NEW MELLE

At the First Quarterly Conference of The Wentzville Methodist Church held at O'Fallon, Missouri, July 9, 1959, the following resolution was passed regarding The New Melle Methodist Church:

"In as much as The New Melle Methodist Church has reached the place where it can no longer carry on the work nor take care of its property, therefore be it resolved that this Quarterly Conference under which the property is held in the name of the Trustees elected by the Quarterly Conference, request the St. Louis Annual Conference at its next session do declare the property abandoned and disposed of. It is further requested that the Annual Conference allow The Wentzville Methodist Church to receive the proceeds such sale as may come from the property."

Signed: M.G. Joyce, District Superintendent

President

Signed: Mary Jane Phillips, Secretary

Since that time a cemetery association has been formed and in our Bulletin of November 22, 1959, we reported the event in this way:

#### CEMETERY ASSOCIATION:

"On Sunday afternoon, November 15, 1959, a group of interested persons held a meeting in the Pitman-Muschany Chapel at New Melle and formed THE NEW MELLE METHODIST CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, a not for profit corporation. Judge Webster Karrenbrock had drawn up the proper legal document for application to the Secretary of State for such an organization. The Board of Directors was elected with the following persons named-Henry Aulbert, Dorris Schierebaum, Irene Rickmers, Marvin Hoefner, and Roy Borgman. This Board signed the application papers. The Board of Directors with their legal counsel, Mr. Karrenbrock, is now preparing by-laws and will presently call another meeting. Any persons interested in giving perpetual and permanent care to The Methodist Cemetery at New Melle should contact this association."

(Editor's Note: Judge Webster Karrenbrock informed me on Tuesday, March 1, 1960, that he expected the return of the incorporation papers "any day now." The delay has been considerable. As soon as the



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papers are received from Jefferson City and The Board of Directors meets to elect officers, our Trustees will complete transfer of The Cemetery to The Association; we shall also place into their keeping old cemetery records and a sum of money (\$275.00) which we now hold in custody.)

We are now in the process of de-consecrating the building for Methodist usage. It has been offered to our friends in The Baptist denomination who expect to buy it and begin a mission in New Melle. We expect to make a final and complete statement on the disposition of the building at the end of this history. All the sacramentals have been removed from the building except the pulpit, the altar rail, the bell and the corner stone.

The pews which were brought to New Melle from the Howell Methodist Church by Morris Muschany during the TNT days have been sold for \$300 to The Emory Memorial Methodist Church at New Haven, Missouri.

The beginnings of our Methodist work are lost in the deep shadows of the last century. On August 17, 1869, ninety-one years ago the following document was filed for record in St. Charles, Missouri: (Note--if there are errors in spelling and uncertainties about words, please remember that the document is very old and in transcribing the aged words, some errors might have entered without intention)---- The documents were written in long hand, then photostats made of the record, then a secretary put them into typewritten form. We shall do the best we can with them.

THIS IS THE RECORD:---

Book 7, pages 565 and 566.

"Know all men by these presents. That uer(now) John W. Welker and Catherine Clara, his wife, of the County of St. Charles in the State of Missouri have this day, for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar to the said John W. Welker in hand paid by Jobst(John) H. Geisman and John H. Hackman Trustees of the free Paneal(Peniel--Penuel) sp.---church of the County of St. Charles in the State of Missouri Granted, Bargained and Sold, and by these presents do Grant, Bargain and Sell unto the said Trustees for a Grave Yard or Burying Ground, the following described tract or parcel of land situated in the County of St. Charles, in the State of Missouri: That is to say:- a certain lot of ground for the purpose of a free burying ground to all those that may wish to be buried in the same, and described as follows: beginning at a stone on the North East corner of said lot on the road leading South from New Melle thence South forty yards to a stone, thence West sixty-five yards to a stone, thence North forty yards to a stone, thence sixty-five yards East to the place of beginning, it being in a part of the North East Quarter of the North West Quarter of Section thirty-five Township Forty-six, Range One East. To have and to hold the premises hereby conveyed with all the rights, privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining unto the said Jobs(John) H. Geisman and John H. Hackman, Trustees as aforesaid-and successors forever, I, the said John H. Welker hereby covenanting to and with the said Trustees the successors and assigns





4.

for---heirs, exocutors and administrators. To Warrant and to Defend the title to the premises hereby conveyed against the claim of every person whatsoever. In witness whereof we have here unto subscribed our names and affixed our seal this 31st day of March 1869.

John H. Welker

Catherine Clara Welker

"State of Missouri

County of St. Charles:

Be it remembered, That John W. Welker and Catherine Clara, his wife, who are personally known to the undersigned Justice of the Peace, to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing deed as parties thereto this day appeared before me and acknowledged that they executed and delivered the same as their voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein contained. And the said Catherine Clara being by one made acquainted with the contents of said Deed, acknowledged on an examination separate from said husband, that she executed the same and relinquished her dower in the Real Estate therein mentioned freely and without compulsion or under influence of her said husband. Taken and certified the day and year first written.

Seal of the

Peniel

Congregation

Henry Abingdon

J.P.

"One I.R. stamp of fifty cents attached and canceled in the original. The first red dash denotes the words 'of New Mello' crossed out. The word 'ground' underscored red was interlined. The second and third red dashes denote each the word 'heirs' crossed out. The letters 'Sucer' underscored red were written on the word 'assigns'. All in the original Deed. Filed for record August 17th, 1869.

Gustave Bruire, Recorder. "

Another document written a few days later but recorded on the same date contains these words:

"Know all men by these presents that we, Jobst (?-John) Sudbroke and Clara E. Sudbroke of the County of St. Charles in the State of Missouri have this day for and in consideration of the sum of Six hundred Dollars to the said John (Jobst)?--Sudbrook in hand paid by John Geisman and John H. Hackman, Trustees of the free Peniel Church at New Mello of the county of St. Charles in the State of Missouri granted, bargained and sold and by these presents do grant, bargain, and sell unto the said Trustees and their successors the following described tract or parcel of land situated in the County of St. Charles, State of Missouri. That is to say: A lot of land lying in Section Twenty-seven, Township forty-six, Range One East, it being part of the Land entered by Charles Hauins(?) and sold by said Hauins(sp?) to John H. Welker the said lot adjoining the Town of New Mollo(sp?-Auvonell)-beginning at a stone at the North East corner it being the South East corner of the lot belonging to Henry Trebe, Thence South to the Grave Yard lot, Thence West to land belonging to H. Sprenger(Sprunger sp??), Thence North with said line to ST. Charles Street thence East with said street to Mill Street, the said lot contains four acres more or less.





"To Have and to Hold the premises hereby conveyed with all the rights, privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging or in any use appertaining to and with the said Trustees and their successors for the use of the primitive church in New Melle. Their heirs and assigns forever. I, the said John Sudbrock hereby covenanting to and with the said Trustees and their heirs and assigns for--heirs, executors and administrators to Warrant and Defend the title to the premises Hereby Conveyed against the claim of every person whatsoever. In Witness Whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names and affixed our seal the Ninth day of April, 1869.

J.H. Sudbrock  
Clara E. Sudbrock

State of Missouri  
County of St. Charles:

"Be it remembered, that Jobst (sp?) Sudbrock and Clara E. his wife who are personally known to the undersigned Justice of the Peace to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing Deed as parties thereto this day appeared before me and acknowledged that they executed the same as their voluntary act and deed, for the use and purpose therein contained. And the said Clara E. being by one made acquainted with the contents of said Deed, acknowledged on an examination, separate and apart from her said husband, that she executed the same and relinquishes her dower in the Real Estate therein mentioned freely and without compulsion or under influence of her said husband. Taken and certified this 9th day of April, 1869.

Henry Abington  
Justice of the Peace

"One, I.R. stamp of one dollar attached and canceled in the original Deed. The word 'Peniel' underscored red was written under some illegible word crossed out. The word 'church' underscored red was interlined. All in the Original Deed. Filed for Record August 17th, 1869.

Gustave Bruire, Recorder."

These transactions indicate that a congregation of people was in New Melle. How they came we do not know. The Frie Peniel Gemeinde -- does not tell us their spiritual extraction. They must have been pious men. For the name which they laid upon themselves is derived from Jacob's experience as described in Genesis 32:23-33 --- "And Jacob called the name of the place PENIEL--"for I have seen God face to face and my life is preserved."--and the sun rose upon him as he passed over Peniel. A liberal translation would be--THE CONGREGATION THAT HAS FREELY SEEN GOD FACE TO FACE AND LIVED. Did this interest in a burying ground grow out of a bitter need when an epidemic of cholera ravaged the country-side? We do not know.

Another phrase in this ancient and valuable document which intrigues our thought is this--"the primitive Church in New Melle." That word 'primitive' in church history and liturgy is a precious word. For it describes the fellowship of believers in the early centuries after Christ walked the earth. And again we have an unanswered question--"Who among the New Melle believers was so filled with love for the





Church that this word was easy upon his tongue and pen?"

We are indebted to The Reverend Oscar Kettelkamp D.D., 409 N. Hiway 47, Warrenton, Missouri, for the translation of the New Melle record in "the old German Bible Book" published either in 1903-or 1904. This is the translation:

"The congregation in New Melle, Missouri, was organized in the year 1869, by a preacher of independent congregations. In 1870 the members of the congregation turned to the College at Warrenton, Missouri, with a plea to send them a Methodist minister. In response to that plea Br. W. Simon was sent to them. He ministered from 1870 to 1872. He was followed by the following Brethren all of whom served from the College in Warrenton: Fred Miller 1872-1873; Samuel Sägerser 1873-1874; John Asling 1874-1876; Henry Hankemeyer 1876-1878; J.J. Sandmeier 1878-1880; C. Steinmeyer 1880-1881; Fred Koenig 1881-1883; J.F. Fröeschle 1883-1886; William Hartel 1886-1887; H. Brinkmeyer 1887-1889; W. Schmidt 1889-1893; David Fröeschle 1893-1895; Henry Floreth 1895-1899; C.D. Allinger 1899-1900; Karl A. Neumeyer 1900-1902; William Dahlem 1902-1903; L.W. Diederich 1903 to time of publication of this report (1903-1904.)

"At the time of this report (1903-1904) the following Brethren were serving as stewards: Charles Borgman, G.W. Karrenbrock, Sr., who was also local preacher, Henry Meyer and Edward Karrenbrock. Trustees were Henry Meyer, Fred Borgman, and Andrew Köhler. The congregation was maintaining a Sunday school and an Epworth League."

The question which we asked previously may be answered in this sentence--and yet the patriarch is un-named.--"The congregation in New Melle was organized by a preacher of Independent congregations in the year 1869."---This man, whoever he was, belongs to the many people of faith/believe in the work of God and do it with love.

For nine years the congregation used a building which stood just North of the present cemetery. Early in the year 1878 the congregation purchased a tract of land. That transaction is described in these words:

"Know All Men by These Presents that Conrad Weinrich and Anna C. Weinrich, his wife, of the county of St. Charles in the State of Missouri, have this day for and in consideration of the sum of One Hundred Dollars to the said Conrad Weinrich in hand paid by The Trustees of The Methodist Church of New Melle of the county of St. Charles in the State of Missouri granted, bargained, and sold by these presents do grant, bargain and sell unto the said Trustees of the Methodist Church of New Melle, St. Charles County, Missouri, the following described tracts or parcels of land situate in the County of St. Charles in the State of Missouri,--that is to say,

"Lot No. Eighteen bounded as follows North by an alley One hundred and Seventy three feet, East by Schutzer Street Sixty-six and a half feet, South by lot No. Seventeen One Hundred and seventy-three feet, West by a street running on the Lutheran Church Land Ninety-six and a half feet in the town of New Melle. And now the above described tract or parcel of land in trust said premises shall be kept, maintained, and





disposed of as a place of divine worship for the use of the Ministry and Membership of The Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America subject to discipline, usage, and ministerial appointments of said church as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said Church and the Annual Conference in whose bounds the said premises are situated.

"To have and to hold the premises hereby conveyed with all the rights, privileges, and appurtenances thereto belonging or in any wise appertaining unto the said Trustees of the Methodist Church of New Melle, Missouri, their heirs and assigns forever; the said Conrad Weinrich and wife hereby covenanting to and with the said Trustees of the Methodist Church of New Melle, Missouri, their heirs and assigns, for the said Trustees heirs, executors and administrators, to Warrant and Defend the title to the premises hereby conveyed against the claims of every person whatsoever.

"In witness whereof we have subscribed our names and affixed our seals this 28th day of February, 1878.

Conrad Weinrich  
Anna C. Weinrich

State of Missouri SS  
County of St. Charles

"Be it remembered that Conrad Weinrich and Anna C. Weinrich, his wife, who are personally known to the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace within and for said County, to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing Deed, as parties thereto, this day appeared before me, and acknowledged that they executed and delivered the same as their voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes therein contained, and the said Anna C. Weinrich being by me made acquainted with the contents of said Deed, acknowledged, on an examination separate and apart from her said husband, that she executed the same, and relinquishes her dower in the Real Estate therein mentioned, freely, and without compulsion or undue influence of her said husband.

"Given under my hand this 28th day of February 1878:

F.H. Leimbrack  
Justice of the Peace

Filed for Record this 14th day of November at 8 a.m. A.D. 1878

"Trustees' underscored red was written on some other word in the original."

In all of our research we always found a low figure for membership. Seldom, if ever, did the congregation number 100 souls as full members. Generally, the pastors in their Annual Conference reports listed membership figures in the fifties and sixties.

But during its days of vigor the congregation always filled the





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building. I can recall one Sunday evening during a Thanksgiving vacation during the twenties when the house "was packed" for a service by a Gospel team from Central Wesleyan College at Warrenton.

We have seen old Christmas pictures showing how much effort and thought went into the arrangement of the tree and platform. We have found in the basement of the church the old wire holders--with colored clay balls--which held the small candles. The use of these was a widespread custom among our German Methodist people. We used them too in my home church at Champion City. Always two alert men with long poles, snuffers, and wet cloths stood ready to quench any little flame that seemed to get out of place.

Among the old papers which we found there were two copies of recitations or speeches as we called them. We give them in their entirety:

The first is a song:

"Ring the bells for Christmas, there is joy today For to earth a Saviour King has come. All who know and love Him, praise His holy name, Gentle, loving babe of Bethlehem.

Chorus:

"Glory, glory, how the angels sing, Glory, glory, how the echoes ring, 'Tis a loving Saviour unto us is given, Let the joy bells ring in earth and heaven.

"Ring the bells for Christmas, loudly let them ring, 'Tis the gladdest day of all the year, 'Tis our Saviour's birthday, let the children sing, Praises to our King, who is so dear.

Ring the bells for Christmas, glad hosannas sing, 'Till the echoes ring from pole to pole. Tell the Christmas message over land and sea, Bringing peace and love and joy to all."

In the other we have these words:

Shepherds watching o'er their flocks, In a silent night, Saw a star and following Beheld a wondrous sight.....As they journeyed from afar Gifts of love to bring, Guided by the shining star, They found the promised king,,,,,,,As they knelt and worshipped Him On that Christmas morn,-Angels sang the heavenly strain--"Behold, the King is born."

We also found a copy of a complete Christmas program. The date is not given, but this is what the people enjoyed one Christmas:

"Song immediately after ringing bell.

Song by audience. No. 189, 'Joy to the world

Prayer

Scripture reading by the Pastor

Song by the choir

'What we can do'

'Merry Christmas'

'My Wish'

'Christmas Bells'

'Merry Christmas'

'The Christmas Song'

Vincent Karrenbrock

Glorine Karrenbrock

Albert Kessler

Herman Kessler

Corrine Schemmer

Leoma Johannaber



'An Aged Tot'  
Song by Sunshine Class  
'The Christmas Baby'

Song by Sunday School  
'On to Bethlehem'  
Piano Solo  
'A dear little Schemor'  
Song, 'Christmas Lullaby'

'The Precious Gift'  
'Shoe or Stocking'  
Quartette--'Let the old songs ring'  
'Bells across the snow'  
'No Boom'  
'What the bells say'  
'The Legendary Bridge'

Song by Choir  
'The Gifted Givers'  
Song by Senior Class  
Offering  
Closing remarks by the Pastor  
Bags distributed  
'Good Night' --Song, by the Sunday School  
Benediction."

Esther Dieckmann  
'Away in a Manger'  
Maynard Karrenbrock  
Orville Foltz  
Myrtle Kessler

Myrtle Kessler  
Lillian Holt  
Johnny Kessler  
Edith Mulun  
Ethel Karrenbrock  
Gladys Koehler  
Forest Cunningham

Ethel Karrenbrock  
Edith Mulun  
Sunbeam Class  
Walter Dickmann  
Arnold Foltz  
Luella Hackman

Senior Class

Apparently one family was not able to attend for three numbers were checked off--'A Christmas Present I would bring'-Roy Borgman  
'A Christmas Song' Elda Borgman  
'Christmas' Arthur Borgman

It was always a disappointment to miss the Church Christmas program because of sickness, bad roads, weather. Those of us who were raised in similar surroundings can imagine how these children felt.

The 'treat' was always an important part of the Christmas program. In December the congregation purchased from A.C. Hoefner, Dealer in General Merchandise the following items for \$ 10.60.

5 lbs. peanuts	\$ 1.00
2 boxes candles	.40
30 lbs. candy	6.00
6 dz. bananas	1.20
1 basket apples	.40
3 doz. oranges	1.05
Twine	.10
40 No. 6 paper bags	.07
$\frac{1}{2}$ doz. oranges	.18
1 doz. bananas	.20

This bill was paid on January 26, 1918.





To examine the financial accounts left by our brethren in The Conference Journals and their statements in local records has made us realize once again how much we owe to these 'men of old.' There was no formal arrangement to any record keeping. Somehow 'the angel of the treasury' always helped them to strike a balance and to see that just due was always given to the Lord's business. An auditor would never have found his way through. Records were kept on bits of paper, backs of envelopes, backs of checkbooks, pieces of tablets.

In 'the old days' The Methodist Publishing House sent to Sunday school superintendents a small pocket notebook. Only Sunday dates were given in these books. On the Sundays when services were held the report would be recorded in this way---envelopes.....

loose.....

total.....

Paid above amount to Rev.....

date..... and then the initials

of the treasurer.

For August 7, 1949, we found this notation: 'No collection. Only one present beside the minister and wife.' May 2, 1948 (Rural Life Sunday) this comment was made: 'Had no services on May 2, as Rev. Kiker got his time mixed up with Day Light Saving Time.' September 5, 1948, carried this notation: 'No services on September 5. Rev. Kiker was not able and had gone on vacation.'..... Old receipts were found too from Central Wesleyan Orphans' Home, bearing the signatures of saintly men long gone to glory land.

There also were a few 'Waisensache'--in which offerings were placed. Sometimes a small sum of money was loaned by a member to a student-preacher. A note (receipt) on Central Wesleyan College stationery, dated December 31, 1918 was written as follows: 'Received from E.K. the sum of \$17.00 as a loan, to be repaid at the earliest possible moment.

Signed E.S., Minister

German Methodist Episcopal Church, New Melle, Missouri

SOME RANDOM NOTES FROM OUR RESEARCH: There may be errors in these statements-if there are, you will please forgive us. They were not intentional.

----The first confirmands were Alvina Hackman (mother of Mrs. Victor Heuman) and Frank Sudbrock, according to Mrs. Victor Heuman, nee Broeker. Her grand-parents Mr. & Mrs. John H. Hackman came from St. Louis and settled three miles east of New Melle. Since they were driving six miles one way to Cappeln to attend services, they sent a request to The Evangelical Synod for a minister in New Melle promising \$400.00 salary and free living. The Synod refused the request. They then appealed to the German Methodist Episcopal Conference who sent preachers from Warrenton, Missouri. We have made comments earlier in our document about this appeal.

----The bricks for the church building were made in New Melle by Sam Stalhuth. The bricks cost \$1,700.00.

----An 1885 History of St. Charles County states that the congregation was organized in 1871 with the following as charter members:

Henry Hackman

Joseph Gieseman





Joseph Sudbrock  
Joseph Reiske  
Henry Welker

Frank Sudbrock  
William Nievey  
J.W. Karrenbrock

Present membership in 1885-----43 and 35 in Sunday School."

----The house in which Mrs. Bertha (David) Hommes lives is the old parsonage which was sold to her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Dickman, in 1918. (NOTE: The dates below the pictures should be changed to 1918.)

----The 'old church' was standing in Mrs. Hommes present garden plot when her parents came to New Melle This was in the year 1890 and Mrs. Hommes remembers seeing the old church building; it was small and was no longer used by the congregation. In fact, the 'Brick Church' had been in use 12 years.

----The wash-house used by Mrs. Hommes was the old German School Building used by the congregation for the instruction of the children. There are persons still living who went to school in that building. In 'the school days' it stood on the little hill just North of the Cemetery. Though small it served its purpose well. Its fine walnut timbers inside still bear the initials and names carved by the school children. Mrs. Hommes states that when she came to New Melle the "brick church was up and used by a large congregation."

----According to Henry J. Aulbert, his father John H. Aulbert, born September 1, 1871, was the first infant baptized in the Methodist building on October 6, 1871 by Reverend William Fros-g-ner. (Sp.). Henry gave us the following statement: "Dad told me he was the first infant baptized in the new Methodist Church of New Melle, Missouri."

STATISTICS OF NEW MELLE CHURCH AS TAKEN FROM OLD CONFERENCE MINUTES by The Reverend Oscar Kettelkamp of Warrenton, February 1960:

Year: Pastor: Ch. Mem.; S. S. Enrl.; Min. Suppt.; Given for Given for  
& Off. & T. Includes D. Missions; Conf. Claimants  
Proba. S. & Bishops.

1875--J.H. Asling	38	43	350	17.05	--
1876--H. Hankemeyer	64	101	450	16.05	--
1892--Wm. Schmidt	70	54	381	--	--
1893--Wm. Schmidt	61	48	308	4.00	4.00
1894--David Froesch	1866	52	458	30.00	5.00
1895--David Froesch	1865	65	428	29.00	6.00
1896--Hy. Floreth	69	64	434	30.00	6.00
1897--Hy. Floreth	68	64	433	23.00	5.00
1898--Hy. Floreth	70	74	398	20.00	5.00
1899--Hy. Floreth	66	74	368	19.00	5.00
1901--Chas. Neumeyer	60	25	329	23.00	2.00
1902--Chas. Neumeyer	50	20	331	18.00	2.00
1904--L.W. Diederich	56	36	328	23.00	2.00
1905--L.W. Diederich	57	34	329	31.00	3.00
1906--R.D. Winker	57	36	329	12.00	3.00
1907--R.C. Lücke	51	36	329	31.00	2.00
1908--A.F. Daschler	57	36	329	28.00	4.00



Year:	Pastor:	Ch. Mem.;	S.S. Enrll.;	Min, Suppl.;	Given for-	Given for Conf.
	&	Off. & T.		includes B. Missions;	Claimants	
	Proba.			S. & Bishops;		
1909-A.F. Daschler	51	31	328	37.00	7.00	
1910-Phil Deschner	51	38	331	40.00	10.00	
1911-Phil Deschner	57	42	331	34.00	10.00	
1912-----	51	48	306	22.00	5.00	
1913-F. Munz	47	42	330	39.00	20.00	
1915-G.H. Woestemeyer	57	45	331	43.00	-	-

It was Friederick Munz, mentioned above, who wrote the following report--Probably in 1913---he may have written it in 1912.

#### "REPORT OF PREACHER IN CHARGE ( NEW MELLE)

"In compliance with the request of Brother Piehker, the District Superintendent, I undertook the oversight of this charge. It has been possible for me up to now to visit New Melle three times. I always enjoyed myself and the trips were both enjoyable and blessed experiences. Instruction of the children was begun at the outset and about eighteen scholars are participating each Sunday. Three of these children will be examined and received into full membership on Easter Sunday. I shall also advise that two others be received without public examination as soon as possible, because they are hardly able to pass the examination, but are otherwise prepared for full membership. Reception into church membership after all is not dependent upon public examination but rather upon the sincere desire to serve God and become a Christian person.

"The Epworth League also has had another public service and spent a pleasant evening. I advise the good Brethren to have another such service soon after Christmas and thus help the young people keep the Epworth League alive. The choir has also been revived and with the help of Brother Paustian rendered beautiful service at the Christmas festival.

"It is hardly possible for me to arrange to have the same Brethren to come regularly since every one has so much school work to do. As for myself, I can hardly risk coming out in cold weather because I am so easily bothered with rheumatism, and I do not dare to permit my school work to suffer under this arrangement. But up to now it has been possible to supply the pulpit adequately.

"As regards Pastor's salary, none has come in during the quarter. Up to now I have paid out of my own pocket the following Brethren \$2.00 each to help defray their expenses: Wolfe \$2.00; Helmers \$2.00; Lotz \$2.00; Woestemeyer \$2.00; Paustian \$2.00; Knehans \$2.00; a total of \$12.00. It would please me very much if the brethren were to make provision so that I could regularly pay the Brethren their expenses.

"On November 17, I baptized Edward William, child of Br. William Geldner. Brother Elger officiated at the funeral service for the son of Sister Blumhof.





"Arrangements have been made to have the Brethren Woestemeyer and Wolfe supply the pulpits the next Sundays. I am thankful to these Brethren for their willingness to go out and I hope that the membership will be satisfied with the arrangements.

"It was impossible for me to hold this Quarterly Conference since I had promised some months ago to conduct a Bible study for a Mennonite congregation in Ohio during the holiday season.

"Wishing you a blessed Quarterly Conference, and thanking Brother Elger for his service, I am Respectfully,

Signed, Friederick Munz."

Translated from the German in February, 1960 by The Reverend Oscar Kettelkamp.

Another report, unsigned and which apparently came from the same period in the history of the church, was also translated by Brother Kettelkamp. This is the report: and the year may have been 1913-1914---

#### REPORT OF THE PREACHER IN CHARGE AT THE FOURTH QUARTERLY CONFERENCE OF THE NEW MELLE CONGREGATION HELD ON JULY 10:

"Dear Brethren: We are rapidly approaching the end of the year.

"We have had Sunday school every Sunday during the quarter, and each Sunday, with the exception of the last two, we have had religious instruction. For several weeks we had school, but because of the rainy weather we were compelled to discontinue. Because of the excessive rain, folks got behind with their work which made the help of the children at home necessary. In this school we gave instruction in the catechism, Bible stories, reading, writing, and some German grammar. There are about nine children enrolled in catechism. The average attendance at Sunday School is about 26.

"II. Since the last Quarterly Conference two have been received into church membership: Br. Ritter and Sister Anna Klausmeyer.

"III. I have called on every family and have been in most homes more than once.

"We have had both morning and evening services here each Sunday except when the Epworth League gave a program, in which case we had no evening preaching service. Brother William Meyer served here on May 2, and Bro. Woestemeyer on May 16. With these exceptions I was here each Sunday."

Beginning with the Conference Journal of 1914 we have selected the following information from the Annual Conference reports:

1914-St. Louis District-G.H. Woestemeyer, Pastor-Salary 300-total 338. 47 in Sunday school; 20 in Epworth League-Church valued at 2000 and a parsonage at 700.

1915-G.H. Woestemeyer, Pastor on a salary of 300--total contributions 338. Deficit 16. 39 in Sunday school; 57 members.





- 1917--St. Louis District--no pastor named--salary claim 285--paid 149--deficit 136--total paid for ministerial support 177--Deficit 172. 42 in S.S., average attendance 30. --56 members, 2000 church parsonage value 700; 35 total benevolences.
- 1918--P. Becaschu was pastor on a claim of 285; rental value of parsonage 30. Total paid for all ministerial support 260--total deficit 88. 51 members; S.S. enrollment 40, average 30. 15 for expenses.
- 1919--Erwin Schulz the pastor on a salary of 285; total Min. support 299; deficit 50. 60 members; 65 enrolled in S.S.--35 for current church expenses.
- 1920--St. Louis District--H.E. Roose pastor on a salary of 456; total ministerial support 506; 59 members; 44 in S.S.--15 Junior League; current church expenses 10; Disciplinary Benevolences 364, total benevolences 431.
- 1921--St. Louis District, W.O. Schulz pastor on a salary of 500, Conf. Claimants 50, D.S. 30--total paid 558. Total deficit reported 29; 1 child baptized, 1 death--58 members--8 teachers--28 scholars--11 on cradle roll--total 47--expenses 47.00
- 1922--W.O. Schulz pastor on a salary of 500--total min. support 552--30 deficit--60 members--total enrolled in S.S. 47--average 38--current expenses 15--value of church 2600.
- 1923--Belleville District, G.A. Prietz pastor on a salary of 500; total paid on min. support--deficit 26; 58 members; 49 S.S.--current expense--40 S.S. expenses--value of church 2600.
- 1924--F.A. Schulze pastor on a salary of 500--total min. support pd. 565 deficit 45. 57 members; 55 in S.S. average 38--expenses 43--current expenses 40.
- 1927--Warrenton District--Oscar Bollman student pastor from C.W.C. on a salary of 500--pd. 444. 1 infant baptized--50 active members--25 non-resident--total 75; 45 S.S., average 25, 2500 value of church 900 other property--current expenses 15.00.
- 1928--Warrenton District, Oscar Bollman student pastor--pd. 350 on a claim of 500, total paid min. support 407, deficiency 214; 24 for W.S.--86 total Ben. 1 baptism--1 received--50 members--43 in S.S. 25 average; value of church 1000.
- 1929--Elmer Wood, student pastor--Warrenton District--paid 260 on a claim of 500. None for D.S. Bishops, Conference Claimants; 50 members; 43 in S.S.--25 for expenses.
- 1930--Warrenton District--Pastor not named--Claim on pastor's salary 168--sem amt. pf. D.S. paid 25 on a claim of 17--139 total pd. deficit 39. --50 members--42 resident, 8 non-resident. No report on S.S. etc.
- 1931--Warrenton District--H.L. Janvrin, student pastor; pd. 225, def. 31. 6 pd. on a conference claim of 40. 50 members. 1 Bldg. value 1000; no S.S. report etc.
- 1935--Kirkville District--J. Allan Webb Pastor--Wright City Circuit--no separate report.
- 1936--Kirkville District, Wright City & New Melle--J. Allan Webb--no separate report.
- 1937--Wright City & New Melle; J. Allan Webb, not separate.
- 1938--Wright City & New Melle--Kirkville District--E.C. Morgan, Pastor. no separate report.





- 1939--Kirksville District, J.L.Nickerson, Pastor, Wright City and New Melle, no separate report.
- 1939--UNIFICATION--Kirksville District, Methodist Episcopal Church, Wright City & New Melle, J.L.Nickerson, Pastor, No Sunday School; could not separate reports.
- 1940--Wright City & New Melle, J.L.Nickerson, no separate report.
- 1941-- - - - - - - - - - -
- 1942--Wright City & New Melle--J.W.Borah, pastor--REPORTS SEPARATED--  
Began with 83 members-received 2--removed 22--ended with 63;  
35 in S.S., average 20--Paid Pastor 340--total pd. 564.
- 1944--Wright City & New Melle--61 members-no change-3 infants baptized--12 in S.S., average 10; paid pastor 360--total paid 557.
- 1945--C.A.Waters, Pastor, Wright City, New Melle, and Market Street at Warrenton; 61 members, recd. P.F.--total 62. 45 S.S. average 30; Paid Pastor 360--total pd. 595.
- 1946--Wright City, New Melle and Market Street at Warrenton-C.A.Waters, pastor, 62 members--none received-pd. pastor 360--total pd. 552.
- 1947--Meramec Circuit-J.H.Kern, Pastor--Cedar Grove, Defiance, Fair View, Lewis Chapel, Mt. Olive and New Melle. Began with 62, 1 by C.T.--Removed by death & C.T.--41--total members 22.  
(This is a significant year.)  
Paid Pastor 360--total paid--663--115 on Missouri Debt retirement. value of property 5,000.
- 1948--Wright City Circuit--R.J.Kiker, 22 members at beginning of yr. 1 C.F. 2 by C.T.--no baptisms-4 deaths-closed with 21 members. paid Pastor 360--total budget 523.
- 1949--(Another significant year)--Wright City Larger Parish--Charles Miller in charge and serving New Melle, O'Fallon, Shiloh, Smith Creek, Wentzville, Wright City, with Andrew Bullmer preaching at Defiance, Carlton Barton at Foristell, and Robert Mordt at Marthasville. Paid pastor 300--total budget 542. 21 members-2 removals--membership at 19-value of property 5000.
- 1950--Wentzville-Wright City Larger Parish, New Melle, O'Fallon, Olney, Shiloh, Smith Creek with Charles Miller in charge---and, Andrew Bullmer preaching at Defiance, Carlton Barton at Foristell, and Robert Mordt at Market Street in Warrenton. New Melle began the year with 19 members-2 removals, ended with 17 members. Salary paid 300--total budget at 535.
- 1951--Bellflower Circuit with Ted Matkin in charge--included Bellflower, Buell, Defiance, New Melle. Property value 5000; paid pastor 300--50 to world service-total budget 502--2 subscribers to the Christian Advocate--17 members--none received and none dismissed.
- 1952--Defiance and New Melle with Donald Dalton in charge--17 members, 5 removals--left 12-salary 300--total paid 426--2 subscribers to the Christian Advocate.
- 1953--Reported 12 members-apparently no pastor-value at 5,000. AND THIS WAS THE END.
- 1954--New Melle --all "0" in the conference report--all the way.
- 1955--New Melle blank.
- 1955--1960 under Wentzville Quarterly Conference for disposition of property.
- 1960--Ninety-one years of church history is brought to an end in New Melle Methodism.





We asked Andrew Bullmer for a report and an evaluation of the work at New Melle. In part this is his statement: "I served New Melle from Oct. 1948 to Oct. 1950.....The Church at New Melle was not at all well attended and when Mrs. Edward Karrenbrock fell on the icy ground and fractured a bone in her hip early in 1950 it was just about enough to write 'finis' to the services there.....For a while we had prayer and short devotions in her home and then the services in the church, but it soon developed that our services in New Melle were limited to those held in the Karrenbrock home,,,,,,Our report to Conference in Oct. 1950 was thus:--

Removed by death 1, Removed by transfer 1, Total membership remaining 17; total monies raised \$535.00.

"In Oct. 1950, The Larger Parish Plan was discontinued and the Rev. Ted Matkin was sent to Defiance and New Melle along with the churches in Bellflower and Buell, So far as I know he did not get the New Melle work beyond the devotional services held in the Karrenbrock home. (Needless to say, Mr. & Mrs. Karrenbrock were the prime support of the church.) His report to conference that year was still 17 members. Total monies raised \$502.00.

"In Oct., 1951, Rev. Matkin was succeeded by Donald Dalton and the circuit was changed to where he had Defiance and New Melle churches by themselves. I do not know the details of anything that transpired that year but in his report to Conference he reported:

Removed by death 2, Removed by transfer or otherwise 3, leaving a membership of 12; and the monies raised that year \$426.00.

"I find no further report from the later Conference Minutes and must conclude that the Peniel Methodist Church in New Melle was closed at the end of the Conference year October 1952."

This statement was written on July 22, 1959, at his home--6018 Margaretta Ave., St. Louis 20, Missouri.

In the years 1904-1906 an important change was made in the church structure. We have not been able to find some of the resolutions in regard to those changes. We have, however, an old envelope bearing a two cent stamp and postmarked November 3, 7 p.m. 1904. This envelope was sent from The Cincinnati Bell Foundry Company to the Rev. L.W. Diederich, Pastor of The German Methodist Episcopal Church, New Melle, Missouri. This envelope contains a 5 year Warranty on a 42 inch "Blymer Bell." This bell has a beautiful tone and is equipped for regular ringing and for tolling. ....We do not have any record of the developments between the purchase of the bell and the building of the new tower....The bell must have been installed in the old tower. Mr. Kettelkamp has translated for us 9 resolutions which were approved on April 2, 1906. These are the resolutions:

"1. Resolved: That we the members of the Quarterly Conference agree unanimously to rescind our action of March 18, 1906, favoring the repair of the church tower.

"2. Resolved: That instead we have a new tower built.

"3. Resolved: That the tower be built on the northeast corner of the church.

"4. Resolved: That a committee of three members be elected to supervise



the building of the tower.

"5. Resolved: That Richard Winker, G.W. Karrenbrock, Sr., and K.J. Borgman constitute that committee---They were elected.

"6. Resolved: That this committee have full authority as regards ways and means of building the tower with the best interests of the congregation in mind.

"7. Resolved: that the interior of the church be papered and painted.

"8. Resolved that a committee of the Epworth League be named to oversee the work of papering and painting.

"9. Resolved: That the President of the Epworth League shall name a Committee of three to undertake the responsibility of supervising this interior decorations."

We shall not try to reconcile these 2 dates--1904-1906. We simply shall say this---We have been informed that William Brauckesieker and his sons, George and Henry, built the tower in 1904. We do not know how it was financed. ....

We have been told by Paul Brockfeld of Truesdale, Mo. that somewhere in the years 1914-1915 his father, his brother Rudolph, Paul, and a crew of men redecorated the church building. The wage scale was 15¢ an hour. Inside the church there are two paintings worked into the wall plaster. Mr. Brockfeld the elder who was trained in Germany in all kinds of skillful plaster work, did these paintings which are still in a good state of repair. In the balcony there is a painting of CHRIST BEARING HIS CROSS. Back of the Pulpit is a painting of CHRIST ASCENDING INTO HEAVEN. This picture also shows four men and 2 women at the tomb, with Peter having a key.

There are many things we would like to know about the history of The New Melle Methodist Church. One that has puzzled us a great deal and for which we do not yet have the answer is this--WHERE IS THE CORNER STONE?

Several things interested the congregation: catechism classes and day school; revivals and camp meetings--socials on the lawn and picnics on the Lutheran grounds.

The New Melle Congregation was a singing people. In 1907 there was a choir of 14 voices, directed by Pastor Lucke who also was a bass singer. The Pianist was Eliza Karrenbrock. Other bass singers were George Karrenbrock, Ed. Karrenbrock, Frank Brauckesieker, Elmer Meyer. Tenor singers included Tate Karrenbrock, Emil Holt and Bruno Meyer. The alto was carried by Magdalene Karrenbrock (Mrs.) and Mrs. Emil Holt. Soprano singers were Sarah Karrenbrock, Lulu Brauckesieker, and Lydia Brauckesieker. When the old records and materials were cleaned out of the building we found a great variety of choir material in both the German and English language--all of it excellent in taste and appeal.

In the year 1937 Miss Ida Schierbaum left a bequest of one thousand dollars for the upkeep of The Methodist Cemetery. A meeting was called on September 18, 1937, to consider the management of this bequest.





Charles H. Borgman was elected Chairman and Fred Hoefner was named Secretary. "After due consideration Edward Karrenbrock, Henry Koehler, and Charles Borgman were elected trustees of the fund.

This is the only minute on the cemetery fund we have been able to find to this date, March 18, 1960-----"New Melle, Missouri

October 16, 1937

"At a meeting held in The Methodist Church of New Melle, Missouri, the Rev. J. Allan Webb acted as temporary chairman and Fred Hoefner as secretary.....This meeting was called by a board of trustees consisting of Edward Karrenbrock, Henry Koehler, and Charles Borgman who were elected at a previous meeting to draft a constitution and by-laws for a cemetery organization.....

"At this meeting it was decided to call it---"The Peniel Cemetery Organization."

"A constitution consisting of a preamble, eleven articles, and eleven by-laws was adopted,

"According to this constitution the following officers were elected-- Charles Borgman, president, for a term of three years---Edward Karrenbrock, vice-president, for a term of two years, and Fred Hoefner, secretary for a term of one year.

"Various matters were discussed and it was decided to repair the old fence around the cemetery with new cedar posts and some new boards.

"There being no other business the meeting adjourned.

"Signed, Fred Hoefner, Secretary."

For an earlier date on cemetery work we found this statement in a Quarterly Conference Minute for June 26, 1921: "A motion was passed that a new fence be built around the cemetery--the trustees to act as committee."

An old account book shows that on November 9, 1937, Fred Hoefner deposited in The Wentzville State Bank the sum of \$1,000.00 received from the estate of Ida Schierbaum.

On August 27, 1938, the first payment of \$175.00 was paid to the Stewart Iron Works Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, with another payment of \$436.03 made to the same firm on September 28, 1938. Then other payments followed in 1938-1939 for labor, cement, and paint. In the meantime \$250.00 was loaned to Oberdiek Bros. on Jan. 12, 1939. The note was paid in full with \$4.20 in interest on May 13, 1939. On November 15, 1939, Walter Schmidt was paid \$43.00 for hauling 43 tons of crushed rock. Twelve days later O'Fallon Quarry was paid \$54.95 for 43 and 1/10 tons of crushed rock at \$1.25 per ton...Arnold Dieckman was paid for painting the fence and Clemence Brakensiek and Pat Johnson received payment for digging a trench for the cemetery



"rock walk."

A lawn mower was purchased from Schlueter and Vogler on September 14, 1940, for the sum of \$5.50. Edwin Thiemann "cut the weeds and mowed the grass" in 1940, and part of 1941. August Meier received his first payment "for cutting weed and grass on cemetery," on July 23, 1941. Thereafter payments are made to him for the same kind of labor from time to time. A late payment was made to him on October 17, 1953, for "cutting grass." Now the weeds are not mentioned. The sum was \$28.46 and on November 3, 1953, the treasurer of The Peniel Cemetery Fund wrote in his account book--"no Balance." The next payment to August Meier of which we have found record was February 21, 1955--"for cleaning cemetery." This was for \$13.00.

CEMETERY ASSOCIATION MEETS: On Sunday afternoon, March 27, The New Melle Methodist Cemetery Association held a meeting in The Wentzville Methodist Church. The Board of Directors elected the following officers: President, Henry Aulbert; Vice-president, Roy Borgman; and, Secretary-treasurer, Irene Rickmers. Judge Webster Karrenbrock stated that the Charter had been received from the Secretary of State. By-laws were adopted. Any interested adult may become a member of the association by paying the annual dues of \$2.00. The annual meetings will be held the first Sunday in June each year. The local board of Trustees in charge of Methodist interests at New Melle cleared the bank balance of the old Freie Peniel Cemetery account and gave a check for the balance of \$275.83 to Miss Rickmers. We are indebted to Mrs. Melva M. Mennemeier, Attorney at Law, and her secretary, Mrs. Eli Douglas, for courtesies granted in the preparation of a Quit-Claim deed which is recorded in St. Charles, Book 342, page 129. This was recorded on April 6 and on April 9, 1960, was put into the hands of Henry J. Aulbert. By this deed we surrender all interest and rights in said Cemetery to The New Melle Methodist Cemetery Association.

CONCLUSION: These words are being written on Thursday, afternoon, May 12, 1960. The final pages are being turned in the history of the New Melle Methodist Church; the last sentences remain to be written. The last legal procedures are now being followed to sell the church building to the Louisiana Divisional Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention, for \$1,000.00. A down payment has been made of \$100.00. As soon as the legal papers are ready the final \$900.00 will be paid, and our Baptist friends will begin work in the New Melle community. Presently we will also sign an agreement with Mr. A.W. Moellinger of Moellinger Electronics for the sale of the Church bell.

And thus we bring to an end the ninety-one years of history for the New Melle Methodist Church. Founded on March 31, 1869 its requiem will be sung in the summer of 1960. Blessed will be its memory among those who learned to love God at its altar and heard His word proclaimed from its pulpit. In the sanctuary of the Lord they sang his praises in two tongues; Their bodies have now returned to dust-but the faith lives in the hearts of their descendants. May the hallowed walls of the old building take on new vibrancy and new beauty as new voices take up the song of redemption which softly faded away on the lips of the dying. So may God grant peace to all who love His Church.







